

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (LEGGETT, ROBERT L.), SO

SUBJ: CODEL LEGGETT VISIT - A STRONG SOMALI BID FOR TIMELY US  
SUPPORT

REFS: A) MOGADISCIO 1533; B) MOGADISCIO 1550;  
C) MOGADISCIO 1551

1. SUMMARY: CODEL LEGGETT, CHAIRMAN ROBERT LEGGETT AND REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT DUNCAN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE STAFFERS BELEW AND COVE VISITED THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (SDR) FROM JULY 5 TO 9. THE CODEL MET WITH PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE, AND VICE PRESIDENTS SAMATAR AND KULMIYE. CODEL WAS BRIEFED BY EMBASSY AND AID OFFICERS, AND ALSO ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTERS AND SDR OFFICIALS. THN SOMALIS MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THEIR MAIN CONCERN WAS FOR TIMELY U.S. MILITARY AND POLITICAL SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. CODEL WAS GREETED UPON ARRIVAL BY CHAIRMAN OF STATE

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PLANNING COMMISSION AHMED HABIB AHMED, MFA DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS ABDI RAMAN HUSSEIN AND MFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL BASI SUFI. CONGRESSMAN LEGGETT GAVE A SHORT INTERVIEW TO PRESS AT AIRPORT. CHARGE THEN HOSTED AN INFORMAL LUNCHEON WITH BRIEFINGS FOR THE CODEL.

3. ON JULY 6 CODEL MET WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MFA MOHAMED SHARIF, AND OTHER MFA OFFICIALS. CODEL EXPRESSED IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHED TO FRIENDSHIP WITH SOMALIA AND CONCERN FOR ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. CHAIRMAN LEGGETT SUGGESTED THAT MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF BRINGING ABOUT RAPID DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE THROUGH TRILATERAL COOPERATION AMONG US, SAUDI ARABIA, AND SOMALIA. CODEL EMPHASIZED THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WAS OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MFA LISTENED ATTENTIVELY BUT MADE FEW COMMENTS.

4. TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE MOHAMED ALI SAMATAR FOLLOWED LATER SAME MORNING (SEE REFTEL A). CODEL AGAIN STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH SAMATAR SAID THAT HE AGREED WITH MUCH OF WHAT THE CONGRESSMEN SAID, HE MAINTAINED SOMALIA NEEDED ARMS, ASSERTING THAT NATION-BUILDING COULD NOT TAKE PLACE IF SOMALIA COULD NOT DEFEND ITSELF. SAMATAR'S RECEPTION OF THE CODEL WAS EXCEPTIONALLY CORDIAL. CODEL REQUESTED THAT THEY BE FLOWN TO THE SITE OF RECENT BOMBING RAID (AT BELET WEYNE). SAMATAR IMMEDIATELY ACQUIESCED.

5. VICE PRESIDENT HUSSEIN KULMIYE AFRAH HOSTED A DINNER ON JULY 6 IN HONOR OF THE DELEGATION. THE TURNOUT OF MINISTERS AND OTHER GOVT AND HIGH-LEVEL PARTY OFFICIALS WAS IMPRESSIVE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE RECEIVED CODEL ON EVENING OF JULY 7 FOR A TWO-AND-A-HALF-HOUR SESSION. (MEETING DETAILED IN REFTELS B AND C.) CODEL AGAIN EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND SOMALIA AND THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THEY ATTACHED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SIAD SEEMED GENUINELY APPRECIATIVE OF CLDEL'S CONCERNS, BUT RETURNED TO HIS NEED FOR WEAPONRY. IN AN EXPANSIVE MOOD, HE DISCOURSED ON SEVERAL PHILOSOPHICAL SUBJECTS AS WELL AS SOMALI HISTORY. THE MEETING WAS ALSO ATTENDED ON THE SOMALI SIDE BY VICE-PRESIDENT KULMIYE AND MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS OMAR ARTEH QALIB. THE MEETING WAS BOTH CORDIAL AND LENGTHY.

7. FIRST MEETING ON JULY 8 WAS WITH CHAIRMAN OF STATE PLANNING COMMISSION AHMED HABIB AHMED. HABIB GAVE CODEL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN WHICH THE GSDR IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED, SUCH AS JUBA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE, THE FISHING INDUSTRY AND PORTS. MEETING WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE MOHAMED YUSUF WEIRAH FOLLOWED.

CODEL REITERATED IDEAS OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, AND MINFIN DESCRIBED TO CDEL SOME OF THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE SDR.

8. THE REST OF THE MORNING AND THE EARLY AFTERNOON WAS TAKEN UP WITH VISITS TO THE SOMALI NATIONAL MILITARY ACADEMY AND THE BARRACKS OF THE SNA SECOND ARMORED BRIGADE. AT BOTH PLACES THE CODEL WAS WARMLY RECEIVED AND GIVEN COMPLETE TOUR OF THE INSTALLATIONS. AT MILITARY CAMP CDEL WAS SHOWN THE PRINCIPAL CREW-SERVICED WEAPONS, INCLUDING TANKS AND ARTILLERY, OF THE SECOND ARMORED BRIGADE. ALL EQUIPMENT WAS SOVIET ORIGIN.

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9. CHARGE GAVE DINNER IN HONOR OF CODEL ON JULY 8 ATTENDED BY A NUMBER OF HIGH-RANKING SOMALI OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION, AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

10. ON JULY 9 THE CODEL FLEW TO BELET WEYNE TO INSPECT BOMB DAMAGE - MINIMAL - OF PREVIOUS WEEK AND VIEW THE IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL AREAS OF THE LOWER SHEBELLI VALLEY. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE WERE ON HAND FOR THE CODEL DEPARTURE.

11. THIS CABLE NOT CLEARED WITH CODEL PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

12. COMMENT: THE MESSAGE TO THE USG THAT THE SOMALIS CONVEYED DURING THE CODEL TRIP WAS A STRONG BID FOR TIMELY MILITARY AND POLITICAL US SUPPORT. THE CORDIALITY OF THE RECEPTION, THE ALACRITY WITH WHICH THE SOMALIS RESPONDED TO CODEL REQUESTS, AND THE LEVEL AT WHICH THE SOMALIS RECEIVED AND HOSTED THE CODEL ALL BESPEAK A WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE AND RESPOND IF ONLY THE USG WILL MOVE TO UNDERGIRD THE SOMALI STATE. THE OPENING OF DOORS BY THE SOMALI MILITARY WAS A NOTABLE FIRST, AND THE WARMTH AND ENTHUSIASM EVIDENCED BY SOMALI MILITARY OFFICERS FOR CONTACT WITH THE CODEL WAS QUITE UNLIKE ANYTHING EXPERIENCED HERETOFORE. THE SOMALIS WERE INTERESTED IN ACCELERATED ECONOMIC SUPPORT, BUT LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THEIR MAIN CONCERN WAS FOR A DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY.  
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